addition, it has undertaken a programme for publishing popular booklets on agricultural themes.

Pilot Training-*Cum* Development Scheme.

497. This project was established in March 1952. The project consists of two groups of activities (i) Training of village level and extension workers for the Community Project, National Extension blocks etc., at Mandya and (ii) an extension project for intensive work in 100 villages in Malavalli. Nineteen villages are attached to this centre in order that the trainees may have a first hand experience of villages, their needs and problems and also in order that they may practice extension methods and evaluate them themselves. The trainees at the Centre are helped to acquire technical knowledge relating to rural uplift and technical skills for efficient improvement work and to develop rural leadership. The third and fourth batches (77 trainees) were trained during the year; thirty trainees who were granted certificates in the previous year were appointed as *Gram Sevakas* in the Community Project.

Extension Project Centre, Malavalli.

498. This Centre was started on 5th August 1952. The jurisdiction of this Centre extends to 100 villages covering an area of 178 sq miles with a population of nearly a lakh. The villages are divided into 15 groups, each group of five to eight villages being under a village level worker. The groups are built up into four zones, each zone under an Assistant Extension Officer.

499. The broad objectives of the Centre are (1) elimination of poverty by increasing the earning capacity of rural people by better methods of agriculture and animal husbandry, (2) elimination of illiteracy by new schools, adult education classes, regular attendance in existing schools etc., (3) elimination of ill-health and disease by village cleaning, construction of latrines, improved drainage, rat control etc., and (4) promotion of better citizenship by organisation of young farmers' clubs, growers' association, co-operative society, organisation of community labour and harnessing initiative and rural leadership.

(iii) Sericulture.

Market Conditions of Silk Industry.

500. The prices of reeling cocoons were a little below or equal to the economic price determined by the Indian Tariff Commission in the former half of the year.

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The price of reeling cocoons fluctuated between Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs 2-2-0 per pound in the last quarter of the year. This was due to the paucity of cocoons crops in the cold months consequent of the failure of North East Monsoons. It was partly due to the policy of restriction of imports adopted by the Union Government. The rise in prices was also partly due to the World Market conditions.

Area under Mulberry.

501. At the commencement of the year, the area under mulberry was 1,05,000 acres. Owing to heavy floods in Arkavathi river, the gardens situated on the banks comprising about 1,000 acres were washed away. Nineteen acres were irrigated gardens out of 1,04,000 acres and the remaining acres were rainfed.

Seed campaign and seed supply.

502. In the seed campaign areas of Kunigal, Bidadi and Doddaballapur, there were 2,880 acres under mulberry as against 2,785 acres during the previous year. There were on the rolls 4,875 registered seed rearers as against 3,940 during the previous year. The total number of disease-free layings of Mysore race prepared and distributed among the seed rearers during the year was 26·6 lakhs as against 24 lakhs in the previous year. Crops were harvested successfully with a maximum yield of 38,000 cocoons per 100 disease- free layings, the average yield being 22,500 cocoons as against the maximum yield of 25,000 in the previous year. A quantity of 33 crores of cocoons was utilised for seeds by Government grainages; aided grainages and preparers of unexamined seed in Mysore and Madras States. The seed campaign area continued to be free from silk worm diseases.

Production of Foreign Race Seed cocoons.

503. A quantity of 4·4 (4·27) lakhs of disease-free layings of foreign races were prepared and distributed among the registered seed rearers. There were on the rolls 607 registered seed rearers during the year.

504. The aggregate output of foreign seed cocoons for the year was 5.97 (5.57) crores. The average yield per 100 layings was 15,000(13,500) seed cocoons.

Hill Stations.

505. The two Hill Stations on the Biligirirangan Hills and K. R. Hills prepared 66,652 disease free layings of the Hill ameliorated foreign races of seed cocoons. These were distributed among the Government Farms on the plains for being reared and multiplied. A maximum yield of 35,000 seed cocoons per 100 disease free layings was obtained.

Seed Supply.

506 Twenty-two Government grainages continued to work during the year and prepared and distributed 57·42 lakhs of disease free layings during the year. There were 138 aided grainages on the roll and of these, only 106 aided grainages were active throughout the year. The Government and aided grainages have prepared and distributed 2.61 crores of disease free layings.

Sericultural Education.

507. Practical instruction in mulberry cultivation, silk worm rearing and grainage technique continued to be given in the Central Farm at Chennapatna. Two graduates and 13 non-graduates (stipendiaries) who were selected by the Public Service Commission for staffing purposes were undergoing training from 15th February 1954.

508. There were 57 propaganda outposts during the year. The propaganda staff continued to render assistance to the sericulturists to ensure successful harvest of crops by guiding them and inspecting the work of aided grainages. They catered to the needs of the sericulturists by timely supply of mulberry cuttings and silk worm disease free layings.

Propaganda.

509. The Government Silk Filature, Kanakapura, Mysore Silk Filatures, Ltd., T. Narasipur, Mysore Spun Silk Mills, Ltd., Channapatna and Kisan Silk Industries, Ltd., Melur continued to work during the year.

Sericultural Research.

510. The Sericultural Research Section organised in 1949 as a separate unit of the Department of Sericulture continued to work during the year. The Central Silk Board, Government of India, had given a grant of Rs. 46,000 in February 1953 for starting Sericultural and Moricultural Sections of the Mysore Sericultural Research Institute. The Board made a further grant of Rs. 1,54,000 during February 1954, thus completing the grant of Rs. 2 lakhs as against an estimated expenditure of Rs. 4 lakhs for starting the Sericultural and Botanical Sections of the Mysore Sericultural Research Institute. Government constituted an Academic Council for reviewing the estimates prepared for the formation of the Mysore Sericultural Research Institute.

Sericultural Co-operation.

511. There were five Sericultural Co-operative Societies at Sidlaghatta, Mellur, Mugur, Ummathur and Ganal. During the year, 7·60 lakhs of disease free layings were prepared and distributed.

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Mysore Silk Advisory Committee. Bonus to Aided Graineurs.

512. Two meetings were held during the year and several important subjects for the improvement of the silk industry in the State were discussed at these sessions and were implemented.

513. A sum of Rs. 31,000 was disbursed during the year to the aided graineurs of the State.

514. The two Government Grainages at Magadi and Suggenahalli were continued to be maintained during the year.

515. The proposal for starting a Seed Cocoon Farm at Guduvanahalli, Devanahalli Taluk, at a cost of Rs. 1·5 lakhs was under consideration.

Finance.

516. The total expenditure of the Department for the year amounted to Rs. 6·58 lakhs. Remittance to treasury during the year amounted to Rs. 2·02 lakhs.

Silk Conditioning and Testing House

517. One hundred and ninety eight silk samples were received for testing according to International Standards as against 167 in the previous year. Two hundred and ninety (220) samples of cocoon produced in the Research Section of the Department were tested for their silk content and reeling property, etc.

National Extension Service Scheme.

518. National Extension Service Scheme was inaugurated at Sidlaghatta on 2nd October 1953. The work was concentrated in 25 villages at the outset, and 9·25 lakhs of disease free layings were supplied to 1,600 sericulturists by the Range-Officers as a result of intensive propaganda.

519. The Department participated in the following exhibitions during the year:

1. Dasara Exhibition at Mysore.
2. Congress Exhibition at Bangalore.
3. All India Malnad Conference Exhibition at Shimoga.

520. Demonstrations in the latest method of silk worm-rearing and silk reeling were displayed to the public who evinced great interest in appreciating these aspects of the Department.

Silk Industry in Bellary District.

521. Consequent on the merger of seven taluks of Bellary District, the Government Silk Farms at Harapanahalli and Government Eri Silk Farm at Kudligi were taken over by this Department on 1st October 1953. Sericulture and Ericulture are being practised in these taluks on experimental basis.

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522. A sum of Rs. 20,000 was sanctioned by the Central Silk Board for the free distribution of chandrikas, etc.

Supply of Chandrikas for distribution of silk worm rearers in Mysore Seed areas.

523. The Central Silk Board have sanctioned a sum of Rs. one lakh for the supply of Refrigerators to aided Graineurs for production of cross breed seed and have placed the amount at the credit of Government.

State Trading in Foreign Silk.

524. With a view to assist the weaving industry in the State, particularly handloom weaving industry, the policy of import of foreign silk by the State was continued during the year. A quantity of 5,682·72 lbs. of silk valued at Rs. 2,27,620 which was in stock at the beginning of the year was sold on tender system. Seventy-one bales of silk were purchased by the Government of India stock. Out of this stock, 66 bales were released to the Mysore Provincial Silk Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society, Ltd., Bangalore for distribution to silk handloom weavers of the State.

(iv) Department of Animal Husbandry Services.

525. Considering that livestock forms an integral factor in the agrarian economy of the country and that the improvement of livestock is of primary importance in an agricultural country like Mysore, the organisation and planning under breeding, feeding, management and disease control were continued during the year.

526. With a view to providing the necessary incentives to the cattle breeders of the State and to induce the latter to rear better stocks, the organisers of cattle fairs, *viz.*, Muzrai authorities, District Boards and Municipalities, with the assistance and co-operation of the Department distributed 1,563 (1,108) prizes to the best exhibits at the cattle fairs.

527. There was adequate supply of water and fodder to the cattle, which was a great relief to the livestock of the State. The cattle had to face severe draught conditions for seven consecutive years.

Veterinary Institutions.

528. At the close of the year, there were 225 Veterinary Institutions in the State, one Veterinary Institution for every 27,325 heads of cattle.